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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT Standard of Living in Bulgaria

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Income

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1. The following lists of wages and salaries have been compiled [REDACTED] but have been carefully checked against urban conditions. The salaries and wages listed are basic: they do not account for shock workers or those who do not attain the required output.

2. The following are fixed monthly salaries:

Government official, medium position	450 to 700 leva
Government official, department head	750 to 900 "
Chief accountant	640 to 800 "
Salesman	520 to 620 "
Charwoman	380 to 480 "
Municipal sanitation worker	420 to 600 "
Engineer or architect, initial salary	640 "
Physician, initial salary	590 "
Physician, department head at hospital	600 to 680 "
Physician, department head at university clinic	750 to 900 "
Physician, hospital chief	680 to 920 "
Driver	720 to 900 "
Railroad engineer	850 to 1000 "
Railroad officials and worker	650 to 800 "
Manager small railroad station	900 to 1000 "
Streetcar operator	650 "
Teacher, elementary school	490 to 620 "
Teacher, secondary school	550 to 850 "
Policeman, private	650 to 700 "
Policeman, sergeant	800 to 850 "

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Policeman, officer	950 to 1800 leva
Army officer	950 to 1800 "
Weaver (paid by day) monthly total	468 to 650 "
Printing worker	520 to 720 "
Worker in food industry	450 to 600 "
Metal worker	624 to 900 "
Carpenter	560 to 750 "
Baker	592 to 600 "
Restaurant or hotel employee	500 to 600 "
Actor (fixed employment)	1000 to 1600 "
Actor, holder of titles	up to 4000 "
Communist Party functionary	900 to 1800 "
Coal miner	900 to 1600 "
Coal miner, holder of rank	up to 2000 "
Quarry worker	900 to 1600 "

3. The following are representative monthly incomes for certain independent trades:

Owner of mechanical repair workshop	600 to 800 leva
Automobile mechanic	1200 to 1600 "
Attorney, member of collective	800 to 1500 "

4. Salaries and wages consist of the basic salary or wage, a 10 percent allowance for residents of Sofia, a bread allowance of six leva per capita, and a family allowance.

5. The family allowance is scaled as follows:

One child	12 leva
Two children	28 "
Three children	56 "
Four children	96 "
Five children	136 "
Over five children	48 " for each additional child

6. In general, at least two members of a family work, but the wife is usually employed as unskilled labor, and her wages are therefore quite low. The sum of 650 leva may be taken as average income of the head of a family, to which is added 450 leva as average income for his wife; the resulting gross income for the family is 1,100 leva.

Expenses

7. The following lists of expenses represent those of an ordinary family of four, living in Sofia, and would not differ greatly from those at any other large city. Prices for food in small towns, if bought from peasants and not at government stores, would average approximately 10 percent less.

8. Daily expenses for food for a family taking all meals at home are:

Two loaves of cheapest rye bread	4.60 leva
Eggs	1.90 "
200 grams of fat	4.00 "
250 grams of vegetables	2.00 "
250 grams of salted goat's milk cheese	3.25 "
100 grams of jam	1.00 "
One kilogram of yoghurt	4.00 "
One-half liter milk	1.70 "
100 grams of sugar	1.00 "
150 grams of meat	2.00 "
Sundries	.50 "
Total	26.15 "

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9. Daily expenses for food for a single person taking all meals at restaurants:

Standard breakfast (bread, cheese, jam, tea)	3.00 leva
Standard dinner (bread, soup, vegetable, meat)	7.00 "
Standard supper (bread, salad, yoghurt, cheese or sausage)	5.00 "
	<hr/> 15.00 "

10. The government has fixed the monthly rental per room according to the region and the size of the apartment. The actual average monthly rent for a room in cities is from 30 to 35 leva. A family of four is entitled to two rooms by rule of the supreme housing commission. In small towns the monthly rent for two rooms is approximately 50 leva.

11. The average family of four spends the following amounts for necessary, regular monthly items:

Transit fares (four rides per working day)	20.80 leva
Government taxes (deducted by employer)	50.90 "
Municipal taxes	10.00 "
Lighting	20.00 "
Heating and cooking (coal at 102 leva per ton)	20.00 "
Education (textbooks and other books)	15.00 "
Sundries (Party fees, newspaper subscription)	20.00 "
Loan	40.00 "
Total	<hr/> 196.70 "

12. The total of expenses is approximately 1,050 leva, which leaves a margin of only approximately 50 leva from the family gross income of 1,100 leva. Within this margin must fit such expenses as clothing, shoes, medicines, entertainment, and emergency needs. The margin is so narrow that small fluctuation or relatively small increases in food consumption may easily cause expenses to outstrip earnings. The position is much more serious when only one member of the family is employed, and such families must sell some of their possessions, accumulate debts, or literally go hungry.

13. There are pawnbrokers' agencies in all cities: Sofia has eight governmental and 15 municipal agencies. On those days fixed for loans, a long line of people with parcels always forms in front of the one municipal bank in Sofia which makes loans on pawn collateral.

Taxes

14. Income taxes are paid according to the following scale:

<u>Monthly income</u>	<u>Tax</u>
200 to 240 leva	4.00 leva plus 3 percent of amount over 200 leva
241 to 280 "	5.20 " " 4 " " " " 241 "
281 to 320 "	6.80 " " 5 " " " " 281 "
321 to 400 "	8.80 " " 6 " " " " 321 "
401 to 480 "	13.60 " " 7 " " " " 401 "
481 to 600 "	19.20 " " 8 " " " " 481 "
601 to 720 "	28.80 " " 10 " " " " 601 "
721 and up "	40.80 " " 12 " " " " 721 "

A family head who earns 650 leva per month pays a total of 33.80 income tax.

15. Additional taxes and fees are imposed as follows:

Bachelor's tax (for those from 21 years old on)	5 percent
Party membership fee	1 "
Trade union membership fee	1 "

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Way of Life

16. Since as many members of the family as possible must work as early as they possibly can and since the wife works as well as the husband, the problem of child care has been magnified. The number of day children's homes, where children are cared for from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., is not sufficient, and many children must be left uncared for during the day. Those parents who work on night shifts are entitled to have their children from three to seven years old admitted to "weekly homes," where the children stay six days and spend Sunday and holidays with the family.
17. Almost no family has a complete apartment, however small, for itself. Even apartments in new buildings are so large that several families must share them, with the resulting loss of privacy. If a room is to be sublet, the occupant of the apartment cannot choose the tenant: he must offer the room to Zhilfond, the Housing Commission.
18. The private life of the Bulgarian citizen has been cut deeply into by the time required for Party and propaganda meetings. In most enterprises and offices the staff must report 20 minutes before work to hear the Party secretary give the "daily news": comments on the leader of the main Party newspaper, Party instructions, self criticism, etc. Party meetings held in the residential districts also claim a number of the citizen's evenings.
19. The house warden for each house is responsible to security authorities and to the Party for reporting everything happening, being done, or having failed to be done by the residents of the house. The knowledge of this constant surveillance has necessarily made its mark on the life of the inhabitants. There is a widespread fear of attracting any attention whatsoever, even to the extent that people who receive good clothing from abroad are afraid to wear it.

25X1 Comment: This study deals only with urban sectors of Bulgaria, where the majority of residents are salary or wage earners.

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